

REMARKS

Claims 19, 20, 23, 24, 35, 37-42, 44 and 45 are pending in this application. All claims stand rejected.

Independent claims 19, 35 and 42 have been amended to more particularly point out and claim the invention.

Section 103 (a) rejections

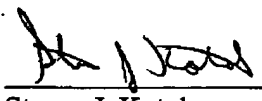
The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Swenson et al. in view of other patents.

Applicant acknowledges the examiner's interpretation of Swenson wherein the inner insert 29 coupled with the annular flow insert 21 form the mixer housing. This is most readily seen in Figure 19. The helical groove is formed between the inner insert 29 and the annular flow insert 21 with a gap between lands on the annular flow insert 21 and inner insert 29 increasing in a direction from the inlet to the outlet. However, contrary to the examiner's interpretation, the gap, which converts the circular flow to annular flow, is *not* between the valve stem 17 and the lands, rather it is between inner insert 29 and the lands. Furthermore, unlike the present invention, valve stem 17 does not contact the flowing melt along the helical channel to contribute to the mixing process. The melt has completely exited the mixer housing and is substantially converted to annular flow before it contacts the valve stem 17. Thus the valve stem 17 in Swenson does not cooperate with the helical channel to convert the flow from circular to annular.

The claims as amended now overcome the examiner's rejection based on Swenson et al. Rapid allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Abdeslam Bouti

by


Steven J. Kotula
Reg. No. 41,911

Husky Injection Molding Systems, Inc.
288 North Road
Milton, VT 05468
802-859-8351 Customer # 24132

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
OCT 15 2003

OFFICIAL